



Vaudreuil-Dorion

PRESS RELEASE

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## 2021 budget for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion: relief for residential property taxes

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, December 14, 2020** – During a special meeting held on December 14, 2020, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's Municipal Council, along with Director General Olivier Van Neste and Assistant Director General and Treasurer Marco Pilon, presented the 2021 budget in the amount of \$86,247,352.

### Budgetary context

The 2021 budget was prepared in the context of a global pandemic that has forced the City's various departments to adapt to various situations while keeping in mind that the coming months will be affected by the continued ups and downs of the pandemic. Mayor Guy Pilon stated: "The previous months have been extremely stressful for us all—elected officials, city workers and citizens alike. Our constant concern has been to preserve the City's financial health while continuing to provide quality services to our citizens; and I am proud to say that we have succeeded. For the 2021 budget, our goal is to help citizens and businesses while also maintaining services. Through our work in preparing the budget, we were able to limit the tax rate increase to 1.5%. However, owners of residential buildings with five units or less will see their tax bills reduced by the same percentage. As such, this cancels out the residential tax increase for 2021. Businesses will have access to a local assistance fund that we are setting up with DEV Vaudreuil-Soulanges. Both the tax reduction and the assistance fund will be financed using the money provided by the Government of Quebec to support the City in these difficult pandemic times. I would like to thank the directors for the excellent work they have done in evaluating expenses."

«Despite several issues that needed to be taken into consideration when preparing the 2021 budget, with regard to both revenues and expenses, we managed to present a responsible budget for 2021 while maintaining quality services and keeping tax levels reasonable," said Mr. Marco Pilon, Assistant Director General and Treasurer.

It should be noted that, for several years now, general property taxes for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion have been among the lowest in the region and include all services such as garbage collection, recycling, Sûreté du Québec services and various co-payments. Only the \$275 water tax is not included. Another important fact is that the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's irreducible expenditures in 2021 will amount to more than \$77 million (operating costs, co-payments, waste removal and disposal, snow removal contract, debt servicing, etc.), representing 88% of total expenses.

## Upcoming projects

The past year has been very busy for the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion: road work, construction of the tunnel connecting Rue des Asters and Rue des Muguets, installation of the Des Nénuphars footbridge, acquisition of the heritage building located at 420 Avenue Saint-Charles, recharacterization of the Harwood–De Lotbinière sector, enhancement of the active transport network, etc. There is no doubt that 2021 will be equally as active. On December 21, Vaudreuil-Dorion's five-year capital plan will be adopted and will include all of the major projects slated to be completed in the next five years—projects which are also included as part of the 2020–2025 Strategic Plan.

“Last week, we officially launched our 2020–2025 Strategic Plan, which is intended to serve as a roadmap for the next few years. In 2021, our goal is to increase environmental grants, launch our family policy, optimize tree planting and, in January, launch a citizen portal that will facilitate communication with citizens and give us the opportunity to get their feedback and opinions on different subjects. We also wish to maintain the new summer playground animation program in our neighbourhood parks. Lastly, we will also set up participatory budgeting through which citizens will get to choose a project they wish to see carried out,” added Mayor Guy Pilon.

As in previous years, the Municipal Council will grant a very significant amount of funding to Vaudreuil-Dorion organizations and citizens. In fact, an amount of over \$1.5 million has been earmarked to provide them with financial support.

## Highlights

- Cancellation of residential property tax increase for 2021
- Budget prepared in the context of a global pandemic
- Creation of a local assistance fund for our businesses
- Increase of less than 2% in operating budget
- Financial assistance of \$1.5 million to support Vaudreuil-Dorion organizations
- Budget prepared while taking the 2020–2025 Strategic Plan into consideration

Details on Vaudreuil-Dorion's 2021 budget are available on the City's Web site under The City / Municipal Administration / Budget and Financial Documents.